

The Evening World.

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WAR AND THE TARIFF.

WAR has had much to do with the tariff in the United States.

It was the War of 1812, shutting off imports from England and stimulating manufactures of iron, cotton and woolen goods, pottery and glass in this hitherto mainly agricultural country, that furnished the first strong urge toward the protective principle in tariff making.

For a generation following the War of 1812 great use was made of the argument that protective duties were needed to foster the industries that had sprung up in the United States during the years of embargo and prohibitive war duties.

It was, of course, the youth of these industries that was supposed to entitle them to protection. There are high economic authorities who maintain that the development of manufactures in the United States during this period would have been the same without protective duties. Nevertheless, the "infant industry" plea had been approved by most economists. It supplied early protectionists with arguments for tariff tinkering until, with the growth of American industries, the plea of protecting American labor from the competition of cheap labor in Europe further reinforced the protectionist case.

The tariff had its ups and downs until 1860. Politicians learned its tactical possibilities. The division between protectionists and free traders became more clearly defined. The Whigs made the tariff of 1842 a party measure. High tariffs and low tariffs began to be instances as accounting for periods of prosperity or the reverse.

But far more than the War of 1812 the Civil War left its mark on American tariff policy.

To raise money for war expenses the Government of the United States passed successive internal revenue acts putting heavy taxes on incomes, on the gross receipts of railroads, steamship and express companies, and on the production of many articles, including iron, steel and leather goods.

To compensate producers and manufacturers for these heavy internal taxes, the protectionists, as the war progressed and taxes increased, put higher and higher duties on all imported articles which were also manufactured in this country. As Chairman Morrill of the House Committee on Ways and Means, who is remembered as sponsor of most of the war tariff acts, put it:

"If we bleed manufacturers, we must see to it that the proper tonic is administered at the same time."

For twenty years following the Civil War this same strong tonic continued to be administered.

Congress took off the war taxes, but it did not reduce the tariff. The impression grew that a high protective tariff was an excellent permanent institution.

Revolutions of feeling came later. The dose has been since diminished, increased and diminished again. But the fact remains that the famous war tariff of 1864 became a dominant and determining high note in Republican tariff policy. It formed a precedent toward which, despite subsequent tariff reductions, Republican tariff policy has tended more or less to react.

Note also that to the original idea of fostering infant industries and keeping up the standards of American labor the Civil War added to the tariff the compensatory notion. Besides fostering manufactures, protection must also compensate manufacturers for tax levies.

This earlier war theory of protection seems to have been preserved intact in the Republican amber. The compensatory idea has readily lent itself in Republican hands to further striking amplifications. Which brings us to the present question:

What effects on the Nation's tariff policy are to be expected from conditions growing out of the Great War coupled with the unprecedented power of the Republican Party?

We have had a partial and anything but reassuring answer.

The Fordney Emergency Tariff Bill contained, among other things, the most outrageous attempt to compensate sugar interests for losses due not primarily to war but to their own miscalculations in reaching for speculative profit.

The Fordney bill pretended to increase national revenue whereas its real effect would have been to raise prices for consumers and insure profits for certain classes of favored producers, with little accruing to the Government.

From protecting tender infant industries to making

good the losses of giants who have overreached themselves is a long step. The Republican Party has made the strike.

The Fordney Tariff Bill was a trial balloon. It got badly punctured and collapsed. The Republican Party is certain to send up bigger tariff balloons presently in the hope that they will stay aloft.

Republican leaders have already given proof that their theory of reconstruction is to save classes that have special claims on the party from the discomforts of coming down to lower prices and a peace basis.

What is this but still higher extension of the compensatory idea?

That the Republican Party will go on trying to bring the protective tariff principle to the aid of its friends regardless of the effect upon the country in general is a foregone conclusion.

That is why the tariff is again a great impending issue.

That is why the bona fide claims of new protection-needing industries like the dye industry, also the complicating influence of the post-war tariff policies of other nations, must be kept carefully disentangled from Republican post-war impulse to compensate every interest and industry upon which it depends for party power and prestige.

That is why the best vigilance and intelligence of an opposition party is needed to keep the Republicans from playing fast and loose with the tariff under the specious pretense of compensating the whole country for war losses.

What we need is a general frank acceptance and sharing of those losses, with a common determination to make good by new effort.

That is not the inherited Republican notion of Protection, during or after war.

HEADED FOR TROUBLE.

NEW YORK'S most important rapid-transit contract is with the Interborough Rapid Transit Company. It is commonly known as Contract Number Three.

Article XXXI of this contract reads as follows:

No correction or change in this contract shall be made except by written instrument duly authorized by the Commission, and approved by the Board of Estimate and consented to by the Lessee, and by the sureties upon its bond; but this provision shall not limit or affect the right to prescribe variations whether of construction or location of route as provided in Articles VI and VIII.

Article LXIX of the contract reads: The Lessee shall during the term of the contract be entitled to charge for a single fare upon the Railroad and the Existing Railroads the sum of five (5) cents but no more.

These are the provisions of first interest to the subway rider at the present.

Gov. Miller in his transit message observed that the Dual Contracts "contained a clause requiring the approval of the Board (of Estimate) to any changes. However, I find no statutory warrant for that provision."

Gov. Miller is a good enough lawyer to know that every contract contains many provisions for which there is no "statutory warrant," but which are none the less binding.

It is possible that the courts might eventually throw out the clause requiring approval of changes by the Board of Estimate. But in the mean time any legislation which attempts to modify this contract without approval of the Board of Estimate is certain to be tied up with taxpayers' suits, injunctions, actions by the city's legal department and other obstructive efforts.

How much better it would be for the Governor to avoid all this by working in harmony with the municipal authorities.

Gov. Miller's present course is not a short cut to quick solution of the problem.

With so clear a statement of the power of the Board of Estimate over changes in the contract, the Governor is not getting through the tangle. He is headed straight for further tangling in courts.

CONFISCATORY.

WRITING in the current issue of Commerce and Finance, Mr. Richard Spillane makes the pertinent point that the real difficulty of the railroad situation is the confiscatory character of the present freight rates.

"It is a sure thing," he remarks, "that charges on some commodities are so high to-day as to prevent their employment in fields where they would be used at lower prices. It costs more to-day to transport lumber from various Southern mill centres to Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati than it cost not so many years ago to gather the timber in the forest, cut down the tree, move it to the mill, translate it into lumber and put it aboard car for shipment to Northern market."

This is true of many items. It costs \$3.40 to haul a ton of soft coal worth \$3.60 less than 400 miles—almost the value of the fuel.

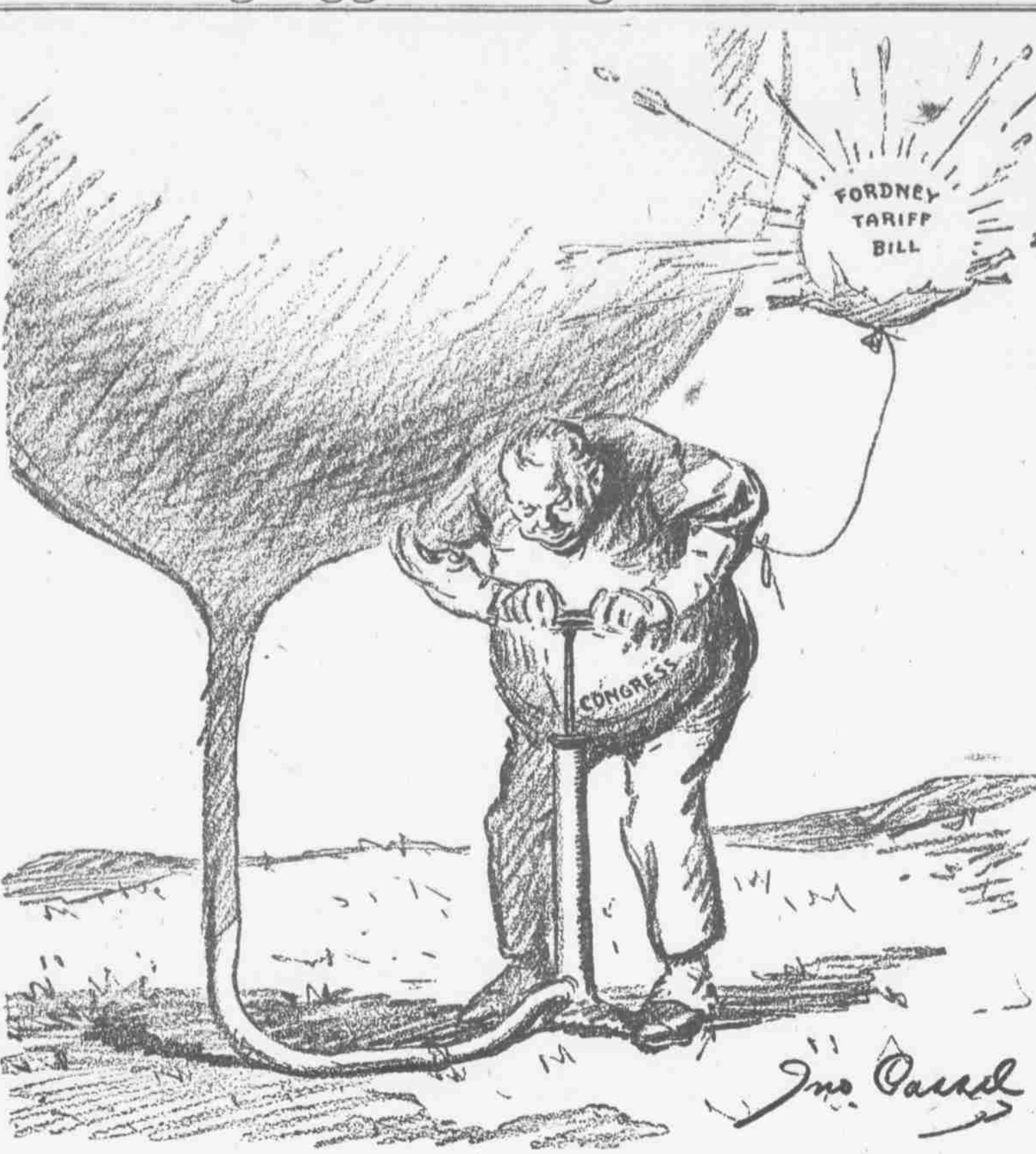
A Maine friend of The Evening World recently expressed a calf-skin to Boston. The charge for transportation was 3 cents more than the value of the hide!

No wonder traffic falls off and business stagnates. The violated competitive principle is taking its customary revenge.

Something Bigger Coming!

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By John Cassel



From Evening World Readers

What kind of a letter do you find most readable? Isn't it the one that gives you the worth of a thousand words in a couple of hundred? There is fine mental exercise and a lot of satisfaction in trying to say much in a few words. Take time to be brief.

The Tenth Commandment.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Regarding Mr. Redding's letter on taxing bachelors, I should say no. But let the Government put a tax on all men whose wives divorce them or whose husbands pay the bills and land wife small change without an extra nickel thrown in.

Better a man be a bachelor a thousand times than a married man who is a failure in every way.

From much married odds—not men—the Government could collect enough to finance wars for the century.

God bless the bachelors.

MARGARET KELLY.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

The Penny Pusher.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Last Sunday afternoon I visited one of Brooklyn's largest vaudeville houses and was surprised to find the "Penny Pusher" in evidence. During an act (one of the best on the bill) one or more of these pests insisted upon throwing pennies on the stage.

At the conclusion of the act the performer rightly denounced those guilty of such ignorance. An individual in one of the boxes was roughly handled by the attendants and ejected from the theatre.

The managers of vaudeville theatres should endeavor to stop this nuisance. Performers should be encouraged by applause, not insulted.

PARK SHAPIRO.

The Fool Law.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

In your issue of Feb. 1, your correspondent, F. Hunt, complains of Prohibition as discriminatory against the poor man, and asks "Are there no men in the country big enough who are courageous enough to work for its repeal?" If he will write to the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment, Munsey Building, Washington, D. C., he will learn how to join an organization of men and women possessed of the courage he admires.

Not long ago the writer asked a United States Marshal what he thought of Prohibition. "It's a fool law," he replied. "Any law is a fool law when it cannot be enforced; no law can make a man stop drinking spirits any more than it can stop him drinking water."

In a city in the South I sat through the trial of three defendants charged with operating an illicit still. The principal witness for the Government was the revenue officer who caught the men actually at work. The testimony was at times thrilling, and most amusing. The Prosecutor in a voice of thunder asked one of the very calm defendants: "When this gentleman (the officer) pointed a gun at you, what

did you do?" "I stopped," answered the accused. "Did you have any liquor?" asked the Prosecutor. "Yes, sir," was the reply. "Where did you have it?" roared the Prosecutor. "In my pocket," quietly answered the defendant.

Turning to the Judge, the Prosecutor announced: "Your Honor, I have nothing more to say—that is my case."

The Judge—in a bored sort of way—dutifully charged the jury, the jury dutifully filed out, turned around, filed in again, and the foreman announced a verdict of "Not guilty."

So much for the respect in which this "fool law" is held—a law which we may repeal, if we so desire.

MARIE DORAN.

Richmond Hill, L. I., Feb. 1, 1921.

Man's Divorce From Nature.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Why are we yet spending billions of dollars and training millions of men for the work of destruction when all the world is war-worn and weary with the atrocities of the past? Is it not at the behest and demand of those who believe that might makes right? Those who believe in upholding by the sword the injustice most responsible for all the wars of our so-called civilization?

Virtually millions of God's children, divorced from the soil, are orphans, separated from her who gave them birth and denied a normal amount of fresh air, sunshine and most of the things that make life worth while. I came that ye might have life, and have it more abundantly, says Christ's oft-repeated message to humanity, yet now, as then, the greater part of the children of men are sold in poverty, languishing in prisons or wander as pilgrims and strangers on the face of the earth.

Man should live close to the soil and die in it every day of his life. He would be normal, healthy, happy. All originality comes out of the soil. This divorce of man from nature is what makes cities "wells on the face of civilization," which, as Max Nordau has said, would soon become vast cemeteries of the dead were it not for the constant influx of the people from the country.

This divorce of man from nature, this denying men their birthright in the soil, is lack of most of the life to which flesh is heir. We have founded our thrones and altars on the premises that a small percentage of the people can own the earth and all be well. The fallacy of such an assumption has been disproved by all the blood-stained history of the past. The iniquitous distribution of wealth as a result of these premises has given us swollen fortunes on the

UNCOMMON SENSE

By John Blake

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ENVY AND EMULATIONS.

Benjamin Franklin, whose birthday was celebrated a few weeks ago, was a wide reader of biography and a close student of the men of his own time. He emulated every great man whom he read about or knew; he envied none of them.

Franklin became one of the three greatest Americans because of his faculty of emulation. Studying the lives of great men, he felt that what they had done he also could do.

He set himself to his work with the diligence which had brought success to others. But it was their achievements he had in mind, not the fame or the fortune that accompanied those achievements.

Probably no other American ever worked so hard or so conscientiously as did Franklin. The sum of the knowledge that he gained by self-education would be reckoned prodigious even in this day when the science of disseminating knowledge is so much better understood.

Franklin had the greatest respect and admiration for the important men of his time at home and abroad. He envied none of them. He cared little for honors or fame. The fact that some of his contemporaries had acquired great riches did not disturb him. To him wealth meant nothing but a greater opportunity to do good.

We spoke of Franklin at the time of his birthday, and we shall speak of him again from time to time, for his life was one of the greatest lessons to the youth of the world.

Poor, uneducated, with no friends of influence or importance, he determined very early in life to be a success. And he was a success.

Obstacles that would have staggered almost anybody else he looked upon as trifling and set himself to conquer. He had abundant pride but no conceit. He was devoid of malice and of envy. Others could climb to any heights. He had only applause for them. But he was determined that he too could climb, and climb he did, to one of the foremost places in all American history.

Read all you can find to read of Franklin's life. Read his own very interesting autobiography. Study the man and his achievements. You may not equal them. Few men will. But the story of what he did and how he did it will help any man to success and make brighter and pleasanter his whole life.

one hand and dire poverty on the other, for which all the charities and alms under the sun can never make amends."

Man's divorce from nature spelled "Paradise Lost."

Man's restoration to nature will spell "Paradise Regained."

J. T. PRICE.

Inwood, L. I., Feb. 4, 1921.

Once Too Often.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Margaret Russell is right about the Interborough Rapid Transit question and Cassel's cartoons explain it enough for any one to understand how very necessary it is to raise fares. It is about time the public took this matter and gave it the razor so that the "public be damned" spirit be stopped.

The hat is being passed around once

more often.

"That's a Fact"

By Albert P. Southwick

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(The New York Evening World.)

In 1825 Lewis G. Morris, a member of that family which have always championed the people's rights, devised an original plan, first in building a dock half a mile north of High Bridge, and then chartered the Nonpareil to carry a load of coal for delivery at Morris Park.

When thus loaded, at full tide, and the vessel reached the Macon Dam, Morris demanded that the passage be opened, and when refused, with the

Get-Rich-Quicks of The Ages

By Seetozar Tanforan.

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(The New York Evening World.)

VI—CRASSUS.

Crassus—Marcus Licinius Crassus, to give him his full name—first became prominent when, about the year 80 B. C., he defeated, crushed and slew our old friend Spartacus, the gentleman whose speech to the gladiators is vaguely remembered by generations of American schoolboys.

Crassus was a rich man to begin with. His family had been rich for generations. The Romans gave him the nickname of "Dives," the wealthy. But his thirst for gold was insatiable. He made money by buying and selling slaves and also by buying up for trifling amounts the real estate belonging to proscribed Roman citizens.

When he was elected Consul, along with Pompey, Marcus Licinius saw his chance to get much richer than he was, and to do it much quicker than he had been doing it up to that time.

So he elected as his part of the business of governing the Roman domain, the rich region of Syria. Now Syria was a treasure house in itself, but it was also the road to India. A couple of centuries before Crassus was born, a great Macedonian adventurer had made a dash for the treasure house of India but had failed because some of his soldiers turned pacifist in the hour of supreme victory.

Crassus made up his mind to put over the Get-Rich-Quick scheme that had baffled Alexander of Macedon.

Everything went well for a time. Parthia, at the gateway to the treasure house of the world, at first submitted to the shadow of the Roman eagles. There remained only one obstacle to be removed. That obstacle was a Parthian army between the Tigris and the Euphrates where some landscape engineers locate the Garden of Eden. And the Parthians, as is well known, had a famous institution known as the "Parthian shot"—that is, a way of coming back when it was only reasonable to assume that they had done their worst and had run away for good.

It was the Chieftain Surenas who led the Parthian shot at Marcus Licinius Crassus in the region between the Tigris and the Euphrates. When the final battle was over, Surenas held the severed head of Crassus in his hands.

He sent the head of the Roman Consul to his royal master, Orodes. Of Orodes we know little. But he appears to have been a gentleman with a marked propensity for practical joking.

It was the sprightly humor of Orodes that furnished to the world one of its greatest jokes.

When he beheld the head of Marcus Licinius Crassus, the King of the Parthians bestowed upon it the third for gold that had driven the Roman Consul to the Parthian country. So, wishing to honor his conquered enemy, he ordered his servants to reduce a pot of gold to a liquid state.

This molten gold he poured into the mouth of the Roman Get-Rich-Quickster with the hospitable observation: "You have been thirsty for gold all your life. Drink your fill of it now."

All of which goes to show that Get-Rich-Quickers should remember that there is such a thing as a "Parthian shot"—that is to say, an eleventh-hour come-back by the prospective victims of their Get-Rich-Quick operations.

KAISER-BILL'S BILL.

The Biggest Bill of yesterday

Now becomes but a bill to pay!

Such a reckoning never before

Was ever laid at human door!

Where once we counted debts in millions.

The smallest figures now are billions—

Billions of drops of human blood

That dripped away in a hopeless flood.

Each counts in cost a coin of the realm,

A total enough to overwhelm

The wealth and life of the German nation

For more than another generation!

This the bill which Kaiser Bill

Owes to a world he sought to rule:

One hundred billions for ruin and rack

And a hundred more to pay it back.

Ten million souls of the numbered dead,

Ten millions more to live in dread

Of hunger and hate and endless fears

That reach on forever through the years.

DON C. KEITZ.

aid of about 100 men who appeared

on a number of small boats fore out

a part of the dam and thus forced a

passage.

The Renwick's instituted a suit

against Morris, but a decision was

rendered against the plaintiff.

The Supreme Court, later the Court

of Errors, upheld the original decision.

Chancellor Wallworth, saying,

in part: "The Harlem River is an

arm of the sea and a public navigable

river. It was a public nuisance to

obstruct the navigation thereof with-

out authority of law."

From that time on a drawbridge was

always maintained in the dam,

which was, in turn, replaced, in 1861,

by a swinging draw which became

known as the "Second Macomb Dam

Bridge" and remained in service

until 1885, when a "Third Macomb

Dam," or "Central Bridge," a steel

structure, took its place.